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Message Text

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14
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-06 IO-13 OIC-02 AF-08 ARA-06

EA-07 NEA-10 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OTPE-00 USIA-06

FCC-01 NASA-01 PM-04 TRSE-00 /099 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8364

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETEL, EWWT, PORG, IMCO
SUBJECT: IMCO: INMARSAT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE,
JANUARY 10-14, 1977

1. IMCO HAS NOT YET RECEIVED THE 14 DECLARATIONS OF INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE REQUIRED FOR THE IMCO SECGEN TO ISSUE INVITATIONS FOR THE SUBJECT MEETING. THE SECGEN WILL WAIT A DAY OR SO TO SEE IF ADDITIONAL DECLARATIONS ARE RECEIVED. LETTERS INDICATING THEIR INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM UK, USSR, KUWAIT, US, FRG, NORWAY AND INDIA AND ARE IN THE MAIL FROM DENMARK AN ITALY. EMBASSIES OF CANADA, FRANCE, SWEDEN AND SPAIN HAVE GIVEN FIRM ASSURANCES THAT THEIR DECLARATIONS WILL BE FORTHCOMING. INFORMAL INDICATIONS THAT THEY WILL PROBABLY SUBMIT LETTERS HAVE COME FROM THE NETHERLANDS AND AUSTRALIA.

2. ANATOLY KOLODKIN OF THE USSR INMARSAT DELEGATION, IN LONDON FOR THE BRITISH SPONSORED INFORMAL INMARSAT PREPARATORY MEETING AND THE IMCO MEPC MEETING, VISITED THE EMBASSY TO RAISE SEVERAL QUESTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE INMARSAT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. HE ASKED WHAT PROCESS
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THE US HAD TO GO THROUGH TO RATIFY THE INMARSAT CONVENTION

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AND TO DESIGNATE AN ENTITY FOR THE OPERATING AGREEMENT. HE APPEARED TO BE SEEKING ASSURANCES THAT THE US WOULD PARTICIPATE IN INMARSAT. EMBASSY OFFICER ASSURED HIM THAT THOUGH OUR PROCEDURES MIGHT BE INVOLVED AND COMPLICATED, WE WERE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN INMARSAT.

3. HE RAISED THE MATTER OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AND SAID THE USSR WISHED A NEUTRAL CHAIRMAN AND PROPOSED SOMEONE FROM SWEDEN, EITHER VOSS, BERGMAN OR RABERG. EMBASSY OFFICER SAID WE HAD THOUGHT THERE WAS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR SONDAAL OF THE NETHERLANDS. KOLODKIN SAID THAT THEY HAD NOTHING AGAINST SONDAAL, BUT THAT THE CHAIRMAN SHOULD BE FROM A NEUTRAL COUNTRY AND ASKED THAT WE CONSIDER SWEDEN AND GIVE HIM A REPLY. HE ADDED THAT IF THERE WERE A NEUTRAL CHAIRMAN, THE US AND THE USSR COULD BE THE TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN.

4. ON THE MATTER OF A SECRETARIAT FOR THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE, HE SAID THAT REEVEY OF THE UK HAD PROPOSED THAT THE BRITISH POST OFFICE COULD FULFILL THE FUNCTIONS. KOLODKIN OPPOSED THIS AND SUGGESTED THAT IMCO OR A SMALL GROUP HIRED BY THE IMCO SECGEN WORKING WITHIN IMCO AND USING ITS FACILITIES SHOULD SERVE AS SECRETARIAT. HE SAID THAT HIS VIEW WAS SUPPORTED BY INDIAN, CANADA, FRG, ITALY AND SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES AND REQUESTED OUR VIEWS.

5. VARIOUS PAPERS WERE PRESENTED AT THE INFORMAL MEETING BY THE UK, USSR AND AUSTRALIA, BUT SINCE THE PARTICIPANTS HAD NOT SEEN THE PAPERS BEFORE THE MEETING, THEY WERE ONLY ABLE TO HAVE INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSIONS. THE GROUP DID AGREE ON A TENTATIVE AGENDA COMBINING THE US SUBMISSION WITH A UK SUGGESTION. IT ALSO DECIDED THAT RULES OF PROCEDURE AND FINANCIAL RULES SHOULD BE SEPARATE (A USSR PAPER ON INTERNAL RULES OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE COMBINED THESE). INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD ON MANAGEMENT INCLUDING MARKETING, CONTRACTORS AND EVALUATION OF LAND STATIONS AND ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS, BUT KOLODKIN EMPHASIZED THAT NOTHING HAD BEEN DECIDED.

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6. KOLODKIN IS PROVIDING THE EMBASSY COPIES OF VARIOUS PAPERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING WHICH WILL BE POUCHED TO EB/TD. HOWEVER, HE SAYS THAT REEVEY OF THE UK WILL BE CIRCULATING A COMPENDIUM OF THE PAPERS TO THE PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES.

ARMSTRONG

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